

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

For more information, contact: Doug Nick, Interim Press Secretary (602) 364-1945

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HORNE: ARIZONA IS ONE OF SEVEN STATES TO OBTAIN FEDERAL APPROVAL FOR “HIGH-QUALITY” GROWTH MODEL TO MEASURE ACADEMIC PROGRESS

PHOENIX (Tuesday, July 03, 2007) – State schools chief Tom Horne today announced that the U.S. Department of Education has given its approval to Arizona’s growth model system for evaluating student academic progress. Arizona is one of only seven states nationally to receive this approval.

Growth models track individual student achievement from one year to the next, giving schools credit for improvement over time, rather than focusing exclusively on a snapshot of current status. Arizona has used growth models in its state assessment system for a number of years but now has approval to use a modified version for the federal No Child Left Behind system.

“It is only fair and reasonable to give schools credit for year-to-year progress for academic gains, something the Arizona Department of Education has implemented with success in our state assessment system since 2003,” Horne said. “I am pleased that the federal government has recognized our expertise in implementing growth models for the federal accountability system.”

The growth models will be implemented immediately for the calculation of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as mandated under the federal No Child Left Behind law. AYP determinations for all Arizona public schools will be released in early September and the growth models will be applied to those determinations.

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